

THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED STATE MANAGED PHYTOSANITARY (FRSMP) PROGRAM
WORK PLAN FOR POTATO/TOMATO PSYLLID SPONSORED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Summary

The FRSMP work plan for potato/tomato psyllid is threefold: (1) continuation of the exterior quarantine under current State and delegated Federal authority; (2) inspection of host material entering petitioning state at interdiction stations, distribution centers or packing facilities; and (3) monitoring for the pest itself in selected host commodities in the petitioning state.

1. Safeguarding Measure: *Exterior Quarantine*

The following representations of our State regulatory authority demonstrates Florida's ability to restrict activities and articles that facilitate the movement of pests, as well as establish quarantine, to maintain pest freedom and contain pest distribution: 570.32, 581.031, 581.091, 581.101 F.S., and in particular 5B-3.0038 which requires shipments with detected psyllids are destroyed or turned back out of state.

2. Safeguarding Measure: *Inspection*

Current survey and detection methodologies include inspection of potential host material as it enters the state via the 20 Agricultural Interdiction Stations. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement's officers support and supplement all of the department's regulatory and law enforcement programs by conducting inspections of highway shipments of all agricultural commodities. The agricultural law enforcement officers' duties include inspection of vehicles and examination of shipping documents and inspection certificates (which were intended to ensure that products carried complied with industry and government standards and were free of pests and diseases) and the collection of statistical data for use by industries and by government entities. Department Plant Inspectors also assist in these inspections. In addition, inspections take place at high-risk locations such as distribution centers. FDACS Division of Plant Industry (DPI) has over 74 inspectors conducting import inspections at high-risk centers multiple times through the year wherein agricultural products are inspected for psyllids and other hitchhikers. DPI taxonomic scientists have developed appropriate training aids, field survey and detection methodologies to share with DPI Inspectors who inspect agricultural commodities arriving into Florida through the Agricultural Interdiction Stations and at distribution centers and other State personnel who conduct surveys in fields of production and the environs. Updated training is provided as needed in the field and at regional workshops.

3. Safeguarding Measure: *Surveillance*

The number of interceptions of this significant plant pest has increased the awareness and attention of those entities and individuals who work in the host plant fields. The key commercial host crop fields are regularly inspected by commercial scouts, growers'

workers, as well as specific surveys by FDACS/DPI inspectors for insect pests under the aegis of CAPS or Farm Bill projects. Detection of a suspect potato/tomato psyllid will be quickly shared amongst the UF/IFAS and DPI network. Large numbers of inspections occur via DPI and CAPS surveys in retail and wholes nurseries and garden centers as well as commercial agricultural plantings. DPI taxonomic scientists have developed appropriate training aids, field survey and detection methodologies to share with DPI Inspectors who inspect agricultural commodities arriving into Florida through the Agricultural Interdiction Stations and at distribution centers and other State personnel who conduct surveys in fields of production and the environs. Updated training is provided as needed in the field and at regional workshops.

DPI and cooperators have operated suction traps (6 ft and 26 ft tall towers) for 24 hours/7 days a week for 15 years in several locations in Florida. Six of the traps are in Immokalee with potato, tomato and bell pepper fields all around. The other traps are located in Miami and Winter Haven. Florida has a number of tomato transplant houses which are inspected twice weekly during the growing seasons by approximately 15 inspectors in all areas of the state associated with Vegetable Transplant Inspections during the year. There are 16 Active Nursery locations under compliance for Tomato/Tobacco plant production for transplants. All contents of traps are sent to Gainesville for ID. Results will be included in the annual report to APHIS PPQ.

Under Farm Bill 2008 funding, surveys have been conducted using traps for over a year with targeting of exotic psyllids and *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp. in several crops (avocado, pepper, tomato, potato, eggplant and umbelliferous crops. Surveys of the various crops were done throughout the state in the case of Solanaceae, and widely distributed in the respective production areas for avocados and Umbelliferae. In addition to the specific surveys, suction traps in Winter Haven, Immokalee and Miami-Dade County operate continuously throughout the year.

4. Quality Assurance Activity

In annual reports DPI will provide the number of trucks pulled over that have not declared agricultural commodities but, upon inspection, were found to have agricultural commodities.

Potato/tomato Psyllid Detection

A finding would result in an immediate large-scale survey and detection efforts to determine the distribution, population level(s), and damages associated with the potato/tomato psyllid. The surveys would be initiated by DPI using its inspectors and State Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey Program Pest Survey Specialists. As commonly done with several recent detections of important non-native pests, an Incident Command System would be engaged to conduct the immediate survey and control activities. Additional assistance with survey would be solicited from commercial scouts, growers and UF extension specialists. If feasible, an eradication strategy would be

initiated after consultation with federal and state regulatory agencies, agricultural stakeholders and University of Florida scientists and administrators.

A control program would entail use of expensive chemicals for long durations and require careful attention to what chemical groups are used and how often with rotation of chemicals are necessary strategy to avoid the buildup of chemical resistance by the psyllids. Chemical control in potatoes consists of season-long weekly applications in Texas where zebra chip disease occurs. There is a strong recommendation to not apply a single mode of action insecticide more than twice in row against the psyllid. Several insecticidal recommendations are available and employed in California and Texas—all of which require several applications of one or more insecticides to achieve sufficient psyllid control.